

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

VOL. VIII. No. 32.]

AUGUST 9, 1913.

[PRICE AS. 8.]

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED)

Contents.

The Scientific Officer publishes a highly interesting article on the effects of Nitrate of Soda and Saltpetre on the flow of Ceará Latex. The tables accompanying the article are worthy of close study. The continuance and results of the experiments by the Kailsyndicate will be awaited with much interest.

The Proceedings of the Bababudin Planters' Association and the Nilgiri Planters' Association are printed. The latter contains much that will come up for discussion at the Annual Meeting.

Correspondence of interest to all takes up a good deal of space. A letter from the Chairman to the Secretary, originally circulated to the Councillors of the Association, is reproduced, in the expectation that it will rouse general interest and sympathy with the Labour Committee, who had a hopeless task to harmonise conflicting opinions, but from the Chairman's letter it will be noticed that it is yet hoped to place before the delegates some suggestions that may tend towards the solution of this thorny question. The letter is published for the information of individual readers, to show them that the subject has been one of constant thought and inter-communication between the members of the Labour Committee. A letter from Mr. Brown on Green Bug finds a place, and deals chiefly with the question of the use of sprayers, and he still maintains his opinion that Brushing is the better method.

Messrs. Stanes & Co. send, in answer to "Slymied," a letter showing the fluctuation in prices that artificial manures are subject to.

From Mr. Barnard, Superintendent of Munderi Estate, comes a thoughtful letter, with which many no doubt will disagree. His opinions are worthy of all consideration and attention.

"Hermit Crab" replies to "South India's" letter, and we trust that having entered the arena, he will not withdraw into his shell.

"Sleeping Brother's" letter should "flatter the dovescots" of the Curers.

Translation of "A Crimping Letter" is published, and the Editor hopes that the would-be Crimper will be traced and pilloried.

Scientific Officer's Papers.

CXXI.—THE EFFECT OF NITRATE OF SODA AND SALTPETRE ON THE FLOW OF CEARA LATEX.

In 1911 an experiment was begun in Coorg to test the effect of an application of Nitrate of Soda upon the flow of latex in the Ceara rubber tree. This experiment was suggested by some favourable results obtained in Hawaii and published in one of the Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletins of that place.

Preliminary experiments with a few selected trees showed that an increased yield of rubber was obtained by applying Nitrate of Soda, and the Hawaiian results were confirmed to a certain extent. (See *P. C.*, Vol. VI, p. 2031. The results obtained in Coorg seemed to warrant a further trial on a larger scale, and during 1912 trials were made with both Nitrate of Soda and Nitrate of Potash on plots of 50 trees each.

The system of tapping was the same throughout, full herring bone with a V channel, the cuts 12 inches apart, tapped every day with the exception of Sundays. There was a very light rain fall during the period of experiment and the plots were watered to wash the manures in. In the tables of yield below the figures show the weight of latex in ounces. The manures were applied to all the plots on 4th December, 1912 and the first five tappings shown in the tables were made before the manures were applied in order to find the relative yield of the plots. The experiment falls into two classes; one a test with Nitrate of Soda and Saltpetre on an area of Rubber *known to yield badly*; the results on this area are given in Table I, plots 1 to 5. The second experiment was a test of Nitrate of Soda on an area of Rubber *known to yield well*; the results of this experiment are given in Table II, plots 6—8.

In order to correlate these results and eliminate as far as possible the initial differences between the yield of the different plots which existed before the manures were applied, the percentage increase or decrease above or below the control plot has been calculated for each group of five tappings. These figures will be found in Table III below.

It will be seen from these tables that in the first experiment with rubber *known to yield badly* (plots 1 to 5) both the application of half a pound of Nitrate of Soda per tree and one pound of Saltpetre per tree resulted in an increased flow of latex and yield of rubber, and that this increase is above the 10% which according to Hall represents the experimental error in field experiments. This result is very satisfactory in that it again confirms the Hawaiian results and repeats those obtained last year in Coorg, as far as Nitrate of Soda is concerned.

On the second experiment with rubber *known to yield well* the addition of half a pound of Nitrate of Soda per tree made practically no difference to the yield of latex, showing that in this area the conditions could not be bettered in this way, and that as good a yield as possible is already being obtained.

The results obtained with Saltpetre are of great interest because this fertiliser contains two plant foods, potash and Nitrate, while Nitrate of Soda contains only one. It gave a slightly better result, though whether this was due to the potash, or to the fact that weight for weight it contains less nitrate than the soda, there is insufficient data to decide.

TABLE I.

Date of tapping.	Plot 1.	Plot 2.	Plot 3.	Plot 4.	Plot 5.	Climatic Conditions.	
November 29	...	37	39	32	28	40	Comparative tests Light rain.
.. 30	...	34	37	31	25	37	
December 2	...	34½	40	32	28	38	
.. 3	...	31½	38	30½	25.	36	
.. 4	...	29½	37½	30½	23½	35	
Totals	...	166½	191½	156	129½	186	
			Nitrate of Soda.	No Manure	Saltpetre.		Manures applied 4 December.
			1 lb. per tree.	½ lb. per tree.	Cont. tol.	½ lb. per tree.		1 lb. per tree.
December 5	...	28	40½	31	22	37	East wind
.. 6	...	27	42	31	20½	37½	" "
.. 7	...	24½	37½	27	19½	36½	" fine
.. 9	...	20	31½	23	18	34	" "
.. 10	...	16½	27	18½	16	33	" cold
.. 11	...	12	21	13	13½	20	" "
.. 12	...	19½	27½	17½	15	19½	" "
.. 13	...	18	27	18	13½	22½	" "
.. 14	...	17	22½	17	13½	20½	" Cloudy warm
.. 16	...	15	23	16	13	19	Fine cold
.. 17	...	15	20½	17½	12	24½	" "
.. 18	...	14	18	12½	8	20½	" "
.. 19	...	11	19	13	11	18	Cloudy
.. 20	...	17	21	14	13½	19½	" warm 70° F
.. 21	...	18	20½	15	13½	18½	Cooler Misty
.. 23	...	17½	20	15	13	19½	Fine cold
.. 24	...	17½	19	14	12	21½	" "
.. 25	...	20	19½	15	12	18½	" "
.. 26	...	17½	18	14½	10	21	" "
.. 27	...	14	15	12	8½	17	" "
.. 28	...	16	16½	14½	12½	18½	" "
Totals	...	375	506½	369	290½	496½	

TABLE II.

Date of Tapping.			Plot 6.	Plot 7.	
November	29	...	81	68	
"	30	...	91	73	
December	2	...	90½	73	Comparative tests
"	3	...	91½	78½	
"	4	...	92½	82	
Totals ...			446½	374½	
			Nitrate of Soda. ½ lb. per tree.	No manure Control.	Manure applied 4 December.
December	5	...	94	77	
"	6	...	85½	77	
"	7	...	83	65	
"	9	...	67	55	
"	10	...	56½	49½	
"	11	...	38	31	
"	12	...	34	41½	
"	13	...	35	42	
"	14	...	39	45	
"	16	...	37½	43½	
"	17	...	40½	42½	
"	18	...	33½	37½	
"	19	...	34	41	
"	20	...	35	46½	
"	21	...	36	44½	
"	23	...	31	41	
"	24	...	33	41	
"	25	...	34	39	
"	26	...	32½	40	
"	27	...	32½	36	
"	28	...	34	38	
Totals ...			945½	963½	

TABLE III.

Percentage increase or decrease above or below the Control.

Tapping Dates.	Plot 1	Plot 2	Plot 3	Plot 4	Plot 5	Plot 6	Plot 7
29th Nov.—4th Dec. Comparative results	+ 6.7	+ 22.75	—	— 17	+ 19.2	+ 19.2	—
	Nitrate of Soda		Con- trol	Saltpetre		Nitrate of Soda	Control
	1 lb. per tree.	½ lb. per tree.	—	1 lb. per tree.	1 lb. per tree.	1 lb. per tree.	—
5th Dec.—10th Dec.	11.1	+ 29.9	—	26.4	+ 28.7	+ 19.3	—
11th Dec.—16th Dec.	0	+ 48.5	—	15.9	+ 29.5	— 9.6	—
17th Dec.—26th Dec.	+ 13.1	+ 31.8	—	— 19.7	+ 38.2	— 15.9	—
5th Dec.—27th Dec.	+ 1.6	+ 37.3	—	— 21.3	+ 34.6	— 1.9	—
Nett Gain	—	+ 14.5	—	—	+ 15.4	—	—

These experiments are as yet only in their preliminary stages. The position is now that in 1911 small scale experiments showed that Nitrate of Soda did increase the flow of latex from *Ceará* as had been stated to be the case in Hawaii. This result has now been confirmed by experiments on a larger scale in 1912, and in addition it has been found that Saltpetre apparently still further increases the latex yield on areas which do not normally yield well, while on areas which normally yield well Nitrate of Soda apparently does not improve the conditions.

It is intended this year to continue these experiments on a still larger scale with Nitrate of Soda and Saltpetre, and also to test the effect of other fertilisers such as Calcium Nitrate and Nitrolin, and Sulphate of Potash and Muriate of Potash. The work will be merged into the Kala syndicate Experiments to which it is hoped this preliminary work will prove a valuable aid.

RUDOLPH. D. ANSTEAD,

Planting Expert.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.**Bababudin Planters' Association.**

A Quarterly General Meeting was held at the Kadur Club, Chikmagalur, on Monday, July 21st, 1913.

PRESENT.—Messrs. R. D. Lovett (Vice-President), H. Allardice, F. Hugonin, H. W. Raikes, R. W. Thomson, H. Watson, and N. Kirwan, (Honorary Secretary). Mr. K. Krishnaiyer, Honorary Member.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read.

Papers with reference to the European Defence Association were read.

Green Bug.—No Bug has to date been found in the District. After some discussion as to whether the Association should purchase a stock of Sprayers, etc., it was resolved: "That the Secretary should write to the Scientific Department and ascertain, which are the most effective type of Sprayer, price, and where obtainable, and circulate the reply to members."

Delegates to the U. P. A. Meeting.—Messrs. R. D. Lovett and S. H. Dennis, were elected as Delegates to the U. P. A. Meeting.

Labour.—After some discussion on Labour matters, it was decided to leave the question with the Association representative of the C. of P. A., to be settled in conjunction with the other Associations. Carried 5 to 2.

(Signed) NOEL G. B. KIRWAN.

Hon. Secretary.

Nilgiri Planters' Association.

At a General Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association, held at the Armoury, Ootacamund, on 16th July 1913.

PRESENT.—The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber (Chairman), Mr. L. L. Porter (Vice-Chairman), Mr. J. S. Nicolls (Honorary Secretary), Mr. W. Rhodes James, Mr. W. A. Cherry, Mr. A. K. W. Downing, Mr. G. W. Church, Mr. P. L. D. Beaver, Mr. T. Brown, Mr. R. N. C. Grove, Mr. C. W. Deane, Mr. A. A. Brown, Mr. J. H. Pascoe, Mr. A. S. Dandison, Mr. C. Gray and Mr. L. A. G. Rogers.

Visitors.—Messrs. Gould, Gerard, Carson-Parker, Hindley, and Walker.

The Chairman before opening the proceedings referred to the death of Mr. W. H. Church. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to his relations in England sympathising with them in their loss.

No. 74. PROCEEDINGS OF LAST MEETING.—Confirmed.

No. 75. U. P. A. S. I. CIRCULARS.—Read and recorded.

No. 76. ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.—In reference to No. 65 of the Meeting held on the 28th March 1913, read Honorary Secretary's letter to the President, District Board, Nilgiris, and the President's letter of acknowledgment. It was decided to postpone further discussion.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. T. Brown and seconded by Mr. Deane and carried.

"That the Honorary Secretary be requested to ascertain what the rules as to compounding of tolls are."

The bad conditions of the road from Nadgani to the top of the Malabar ghaut and portion of the Vayitri-Gudalur road from the Nilgiri boundary was brought to the notice of the Meeting. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the President, District Board.

No. 77. PUBLICATION OF G. O. S. IN THE NILGIRI GAZETTE.—In reference to No. 64 of the Meeting held on the 28th March 1913, the correspondence was read and recorded.

No. 78. RAILWAY FREIGHT ON TEA SEED.—In reference to No. 67 of the Meeting held on the 28th March 1913, the correspondence was read and recorded.

No. 79. SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.—In reference to No. 68 of the Meeting held on the 28th March 1913, the correspondence was read and recorded.—The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mr. Pascoe and carried unanimously:—

"That this Association strongly holds that the continuance of the Scientific Officer still be continued and that Mr. Anstead should continue to act as Scientific Officer. Were another Scientific Officer appointed, it would mean that it would take such officer at least 2 years to get in touch with the needs of the various districts. It is understood that the gross value of the exports of planting products from the Madras Presidency amounts to 242 lakhs, and in consideration of these figures, the Government contribution of Rs 5,500 cannot be considered adequate."

No. 80. CUSTOMS DUTY ON COFFEE, TEA AND RUBBER MACHINERY.—In reference to No. 72 of the Meeting held on the 28th March 1913, the correspondence was read and recorded. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to wire to the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. requesting that this matter should be put on the agenda of the Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. to be held at Bangalore on 25th August, 1913.

No. 81. ACT I OF 1903.—Read Mr. J. Aird's letter and Honorary Secretary's reply. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the District Magistrate pointing out the omission.

No. 82. REGISTRATION OF MAISTRIES.—Mr. Nicolls' scheme was discussed. Read letters from several members on the scheme. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to wire to the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. requesting that the matter be put on the agenda of the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting to be held at Bangalore on 25th August, 1913.

No. 83. ADVANCED LABOUR ABSCONDING INTO TRAVANCORE AND COCHIN.—Correspondence was read and recorded.

No. 84. CRIMING OF LABOUR.—Correspondence was read with satisfaction, the Ceylon Labour Commissioner being thanked for the way he had dealt with the matter.

No. 85. CAPITAL (Nilgiri correspondence) LETTER.—Correspondence was read and recorded.

No. 86. INCOME TAX.—Mr. J. J. McKenzie's LETTER - Correspondence was read and recorded.

No. 87. EUROPEAN DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.—Read correspondence. The Chairman hoped that all members of the Association would join.

No. 88. THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL RUBBER AND ALLIED TRADES EXHIBITION AND THE FIRST COTTON FIBRE AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS EXHIBITION. Read the Collector of the Nilgiri's letter enclosing copy of G. O. No. 641.

No. 89. U. P. A. S. I. EXHIBITION.—The Chairman hoped the members of the Association would support it.

No. 90. U. P. A. S. I. AGENDA.—List of subjects were considered, special instructions being given to delegates on the matter of "Adulteration of Coffee."—Proposed by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mr. Pascoe and carried:—

"That this Association instructs its delegates of the U. P. A. S. I.
"meeting to support any reasonable proposition brought up
"which may tend

(a) to check the present system of Professional recruiters,

(b) any scheme for the establishment of a Labour Commission,

"working under the U. P. A. S. I. in the interests of the plant-
"ing districts of South India."

All other subjects were left to the discretion of the delegates.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES.—Mr. Nicolls and Mr. Brock were asked to represent the Association, and in case Mr. Brock was unable to attend, Mr. Dandison was asked to attend.

Votes of thanks to the Chair and the O. C. Nilgiri Volunteers for the use of the room terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) E. F. BARBER,
(Chairman.)

(Signed) J. S. NICOLLS,
(Hony. Secretary.)

PAPERS ON TABLE. Memoirs of the Dept. of Agriculture in India
Vol. II. No. 6.

Do. do. do. Vol. III, No. 1

Do. do. do. Vol. IV, No. 5.

Do. do. do. Vol. V, No. 4 & 5.

Do. do. do. Vol. VI, No. 1.

Report on the progress of Agriculture in India for 1911-12.

Department of Agriculture, Madras. Leaflet Nos. 1 and 2.

The Agriculture Journal of India April 1913.

Proceedings of Annual Meeting of the Indian Tea Association.

Report of the General Committee, do

U. P. A. S. I. Bulletin No. 2 re labour question.

Planting Gazettes for April, May and July (Ceylon P. A.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Circular Letter.

THE LABOUR QUESTION.

Labour Committee.

Under date Meppadi, 28th June, the Chairman writes to the Secretary as follows:—

"I have consulted the Members of the Committee appointed at the last Annual Meeting, and they agree with me in thinking that we ought to issue a report on the opinions received from the various Associations about the Registration Scheme, and the possibility of harmonising them and circulating a working proposal with the idea of improving the labour position.

"We have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to harmonise the opinions.

"The Anamalai Association is the only one that has expressed itself whole-heartedly in favour of the Scheme. The Nilgiris will only support it if the Registration Bureau is made a Department of the U. P. A. S. I. and worked under its guidance. The Wynad somewhat unwillingly agreed to adopt the Scheme provided Government would have all coolies' finger prints examined before allowing them to emigrate. The Kanan Devans and Malabar Coast flatly refuse to have anything to do with registering coolies. The other Associations are not actively hostile: but seem indifferent.

"Mr. Marden whose name was put forward as willing to run the Bureau asked for an advance of Rs. 20,000 to start it, a sum quite out of the power of the U. P. A. S. I. to furnish. Though if the Scheme were to be put through it was not an unreasonable amount to ask, and it could doubtless be easily raised for any purpose that the whole Community approve of.

"Looking at all the circumstances of the case, it seems very doubtful if the Madras Government would support the Scheme by having all intending emigrants detained at the Port of embarkation till it had ascertained that they had not been advanced to work in India. It certainly would not do so unless we could put forward a very strong case backed up by the unanimous vote of the Planting Community. It must be remembered that a very carefully worked out Scheme for universal registration which was brought forward at the 1909 Meeting by Mr. Brook was rejected by the District Associations after full consideration.

"It may perhaps be thought that that the Committee's task is finished now that it has said that it is unable to formulate a Registration Scheme that would be generally acceptable to Southern India Planters. But a great deal of information has been collected especially as regards the methods of recruiting for Ceylon and the Straits. The bulletins you have issued are very interesting.

"The year has not been wasted, though a Committee whose Members have to exchange their views by correspondence works at a great disadvantage. We hope to meet before the Annual Meeting, and to have some suggestions to put forward to improve matters; and the further views of District Associations would be very useful to us.

"Government may have to undertake an enquiry if this drain of emigration can be allowed to go on indefinitely. The Railways, the Public Works and the Forest Department are all suffering from the shortage of

labour. Ceylon planters admit that they are unable to continue the reckless advances that the competition of labour involves. After all the bulk of Ceylon planters are growing tea, and cannot afford to go on raising the cost of production. Even when the cost of recruiting is not charged to revenue, Proprietors have grown tired of piling up the advance account.

"Our most dangerous rivals are in Malaya. But there as elsewhere, there must be a limit to expenditure.

"The suggestion has been made that there is no reason why we should not have a Labour Commission of our own like Ceylon.

"Another is that our coolies ought to have the same concessions on railways as those intended for Ceylon and the Straits.

"The Registration of Maistries (Kanganies) is a measure which more than one Association would like to adopt.

"I am sending copies of this letter to the other Members of Committee, and asking them to write to you saying if they agree with it, and to make any additions or minutes of dissent that they wish. The letters might then be issued as a circular to Councillors, and perhaps published in the "Chronicle."

The following are the replies to the above from Messrs. E. A. Hughes and C. H. Brock respectively:—

"I received a copy of letter written to you by Abbott with reference to the above. I have written telling Abbott that I think I could arrange to meet the other Members of the Committee, a few days before the Annual General Meeting. This would be the best plan if it can be arranged. I am also in agreement with most of the points raised by Mr. Abbott in his letter, and I think if we have a meeting, we should be able to come to some sort of arrangement as a beginning at all events."

"With reference to the Chairman's letter to you dated 26.6.13, I have to inform you, that I am quite in accord with all the remarks that he has made."

Coonoor, 29th July, 1913.

Green Bug in Coffee.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—That which Mr. Nicholson states about using a Sprayer long before Mr. Brown is quite correct in connection with his Brushing, only he was using the wrong sort, and had relegated them to the lumber room. He offered to sell them to me, and on sample I pointed out, that they were not the RIGHT SORT.

I used Sprayers when Green Bug first appeared in Coonoor about 1888, and chucked them aside as top much trouble. This Estate was covered with Brown Bug in 1881!!!

Recently I had to make a Plunger for a New Sprayer which was minus gun, and which nobody else who handled the Machine detected!!!

On a very large Coffee estate (afterwards sold for a mere song owing to Green Bug) I was told Sprayers are no good, and you should have seen the state they were in, with substituted leather valves, &c.!!! The coolies were struggling all day long with the poor machines!!!

Mr. Rogers' experience certainly makes Spraying an expensive nuisance, and would show Brushing to be the better method, in every way. What strikes me however as strange is this. He puts cost at Rs.20/8 per 1,000 trees. Suppose we deduct Rs.5/8 for material, this would leave Rs.15/- for labour, or 60 coolies, so that one man would spray only 16/17 trees. Unless there is a satisfactory explanation which I do not recognize at present, it would seem as if the coolies here too were struggling with a damaged Machine.

The matter is of immense importance for those about to try treatment for Bug, and I am sure, Mr. Rogers will therefore not mind explaining away, what must be a difficulty to many more minds than mine.

Lastly, I would like to state that Mr. Nicholson depended much on Sunlight Soap, as an insecticide, and brought in the Rosin afterwards, owing to rains as he states, judging by printed matter I saw. You will notice that I have discarded soap altogether as unnecessary.

I would sound a note of warning about the use of any insecticide that chokes parts of the Sprayer and more so any compound of sulphur that will destroy the copper of the machines rapidly. For sulphur a special sprayer of lead must be obtained.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) THOS. BROWN.

Coinbatore, 29th July, 1913.

THE MANAGING EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,--With reference to the letter by your correspondent 'Stymied' in your last issue, we beg to state that we are not surprised, that he feels aggrieved that we have discontinued the practice of quoting prices of individual fertilisers in our current price-list, although we believe that after perusal of this letter he will come to the conclusion that it is quite as much in the interest of planters as well as in our own, that prices which are naturally taken as *current for the whole year* should not be inserted.

We take a few specific instances of fluctuations in price during the course of the past year. The first row of figures are the prices at which the season opened, the second those ruling after a time, and the third those at which the season closed.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Saltpetre	...	... 210	220	240
Nitrate of Soda	...	... 235	240	220
Bloodmeal	...	... 185	175	170
Bonemeal	...	... 80	85	75
White Castor poonac	...	... 70	75	70
Fish	...	... 60	55	60

It will be seen from the above that there are at times considerable fluctuations in price, and further that a decline is quite as likely as a rise. Again in our case, we issue our price list only *once a year*, and if we are to run the risk of fluctuations during the year, we have to fix such prices as will in our opinion meet the case. Whereas if we quote only against specific enquiries, and current prices happen to be below the prices ruling previously our constituents get the benefit of the lower price.

With reference to mixtures for which we quote, your correspondent's conjecture is quite correct viz., that the prices quoted cover a probable rise or fall in individual fertilisers during the year. And if he will kindly refer to the price lists published by large Manure Firms in Ceylon, he will find that their system and ours coincide exactly.

We would in conclusion thank 'Stymied' for writing to you in this connection, as it gives us an opportunity to explain the position in your columns, and we hope that he will not grudge the trouble of sending us a post-card for our current prices, and if he is pleased to place an order with us, it will give us much pleasure to supply him with individual fertilisers so that he can enjoy the 'harmless pastime' of making his own mixtures.

Yours faithfully,

For T. STANES & Co., Limited,

(Signed) F. J. STANES.

Munderi Estate,

Pandalur P. O., 30th July, 1913.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I have just received a letter from Mr. Anstead to which I have replied, but the questions raised by the Planting Expert, have set up a train of thoughts in my mind which I venture to place before you.

The subject is the existing state of combination in the Planting Community. The position at present is, that we have a central organisation (the U. P. A. S. I.) which is subdivided into several District Associations, the initial mistake in my opinion, for each District Association is admittedly formed to primarily improve local conditions and undoubtedly has a tendency to perform its functions from a purely local point of view.

Next from a perusal of the reports of the various District Associations published in the P. C. for 1913, I have been struck by 2 points:—

1. The almost complete absence of practical suggestions, results and records of experiments and general treatment of the really important matters in planting.

2. The consequent attention paid to minor and unimportant details connected with individual estates, which do not appear to require the intervention of an association or any representative body.

Further, we have the parent association and all its various offspring, yet the support afforded them is I am compelled to think of a very lukewarm nature, as evidenced by the almost complete absence of original articles in

the *Chronicle*, which appears to be supported entirely by yourself, the Planting Expert and Press cuttings. We are frequently adjured to "think Imperially" and if we combined it with "thinking agriculturally" the community would I think be much the better for the addition. Another point and I conclude my criticisms. A great deal of *undue* prominence at this period in the existence of the Association is given to the Labour Question, and my reasons for this assertion are briefly.

1. Conditions vary to such a large extent on estates that a uniform system of recruiting labour must be extremely difficult to devise, and consequently any proposals e.g. Registration of maistries, abolition of Recruiters, &c., are promptly met with protests or silent determinations to ignore any particular regulation which does not suit the individual.

2. The Planting Community at present do not appear to be educated up to the absolute necessity of uniformity, and in this connection I am reminded of a statement of the present Foreign Secretary in referring to Mr. Norman Angell's book "The Great Illusion." He said "True as the statement in that book may be it does not become an *operative motive* in the minds and conduct of nations until they are convinced of its truth and it has become a *commonplace* to them." Substitute "planters" for "nations" and you have the present situation. The truths in connection with the Labour Question are not yet *commonplaces* to Estate Managers and Superintendents, and consequently they have not acquired the force of "operative motives."

As I do not wish to assume the rôle of an arm-chair critic, I venture to make a couple of suggestions which I am of opinion will improve matters.

1. The appointment of *travelling* Assistant Secretaries whose sole duties would be to visit estates, confer with Superintendents and Managers, record their suggestions and in their place make suggestions. Personal intercourse of this nature will bring many a Superintendent to a broader sense of his responsibilities, and again many a man who, to use an expressive vulgarism, "breaks out into a cold perspiration when a pen is put into his hand" would be enabled to express and exchange his views which at present he does not do.

2. My concluding suggestion is a very radical one, and is in connection with the Labour Question. I suggest that the U. P. A. S. I. organise a Department, and undertake the functions of a Labour Recruiter. The sooner we realise that the *Labour Recruiter* is an evil that we cannot completely eradicate and cease to pass resolutions deprecating his existence but not suggesting how to obliterate him, the better for us. The Labour is available, so why should not the Association and individual planter get the benefit of the commissions paid, by forming ourselves into a Labour Recruiting Agency, under the control and direction of the Association. The only essential to the success of such a scheme is organisation, and surely we can find enough experienced and intelligent men in the planting community to ensure this.

Yours faithfully,

Signed) N. O. S. BARNARD,
Superintendent.

P.S.--My knowledge and opinions are based on:—

1. 3 months experience as an Estate Superintendent.
2. Perusal of the *Chronicle* for 1913 and articles in the press.

3. Intercourse with a few brother planters. My argument and defence in placing my views before you are: (1) if wrong, the sooner I know it the better. (2) if right or feasible no good accrues from delaying expressions.

The EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—With reference to "South India's" letter which appears in your issue dated 26th July, the advertisements from the Ceylon paper he quotes, do not justify the arguments he bases upon them. No. 1 is a list of coolies who have given legal notice to quit. There is no legal remedy whatever against them in Ceylon, where Kanganies and coolies are exempt from imprisonment for debt; as to the advertiser's motive in spending so much money on the advertisement, it can only be divulged by himself. No. 2 shows very plainly that the coolies mentioned were dissatisfied with some condition of their existence. This also probably can only be divulged by themselves. There is a legal remedy against them, as they are liable to imprisonment for leaving without notice. They could have given legal notice, remained another 31 days on the Estate, and then walked off scot-free; that they chose to risk imprisonment rather than remain another month on the Estate, speaks for itself. Is this a good advertisement for Ceylon? Does it show how perfect are the conditions of labour? Is it calculated to attract labour to the island? "South India" is not the first man who has advocated Advertisement and Government legislation. In the case of our rivals across the seas, I admit advertisement has been eminently successful. As regards Ceylon, Government legislation has not prevented crimping, indebtedness, bolting, or any other evil from which planters in South India may be suffering. In Malaya, the effect of Government legislation is doubtful. I saw, a fortnight or three weeks ago, a speech by Mr. Talbot in London, (whose long practical Experience and tried wisdom, coupled with the fact that he is now the Director of Companies both in Ceylon and Malaya entitle his opinion to acceptance by any of us whose experience is not yet ripe) in which he pointed out that Government legislation in Malaya was not always so successful as had been claimed for it.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) HERMIT-CRAB.

The EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I read the letter from "A Curer" in your issue of the 2nd instant with interest.

As he is anxious to supply information on the subject, perhaps he will explain why at the beginning of July my Curers sent me a Rebate on Shipping Charges for the years 1911, 1912, and 1913, with an apology for the omission to send them earlier?

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) "SLEEPING BROTHER."

A Cringing Letter.

The following is the translation of a letter written to a coolie on the Estate of a member of the Nilgiri Planters' Association, and the Editor has been asked to give it prominence in his columns. ED.

Royapettah, 28-7-1913.

To Kullan,

I have just come from Penang. I am employed in Penang as Manager of an estate. That estate is a very healthy place. I am intending to go back to Penang about the 15th of August or so. Do you like to come to Penang with me? Are there any others who could accompany you? There the pay is Rs.21 per mensem. There is no agreement if you come along with me, whenever you like you can return at the same time. You know well how I would protect you being the Manager of the estate. I am intending to take about 100 coolies along with me, and to prove to others what better workmen are my coolies—than the other coolies.

The working hours on the estate where I am Manager are from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Let me know at once on receipt of this letter whether you are willing to come to Penang and how many others would accompany you.

(Signed) B. D.

COFFEE.

The terminal market has shown some rather wild fluctuations, advancing as much as 2s. 6d. per cwt. in a day, only to lose about the same on the next day. Rumours of financial trouble in Brazil led to the first selling, and on this being denied, a rapid advance took place, to be followed by further bear selling, but without any fresh news as to the crop, which alone should influence prices. In most quarters it is felt that the fall has been too rapid, and judged by the statistical position there ought to be some recovery, the only point which could influence values being the size of the next crop, and that will be better gauged in another month or two, when it is seen at what rate it is being sent forward. Mild Coffee has been almost neglected, and even the very low rates accepted by some merchants, who apparently were forced to sell, have not always led to business, as the demand from both the Continent and the home trade is exceptionally slow. Fine Costa Rica and fine East India fully maintain their values as the quantity offered is much below the usual at this time of year.

LONDON COFFEE RETURNS.

	Home Consumption.		Export.		Stock.	
	1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913	1912.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
For week ended						
June 14th	... 322	292	380	1	16,451	13,405
For 24 weeks ended						
June 14th	... 7,399	7,581	8,751	8,298	—	—

* The Home amount contains a proportion for Export delivered by cart.
—The Produce Markets' Review.

RUBBER.

The Plantation Rubber Industry.

by

CYRIL E. S. BAXENDALE.

A Paper Read at the Third International Rubber Conference, held in New York, 1912.

(Continued.)

CULTIVATION.

Planting is done either from stumps or seed at stake. In the former case, the plants are taken from the nursery, being then from 6 months to 2 years or even older, cut to a length of 3 to 4 feet, the roots hacked back and then planted in the holes previously prepared for them. It says much for the vitality of the *Hevea* that it usually survives this drastic treatment and starts to sprout afresh, within a month, if the weather is propitious. From this time on ensues a battle between the planter and the original jungle, which endeavours to regain possession of the land. Numerous kinds of obnoxious weeds—coming from Heaven knows where—also make their appearance.

From time to time there crops up something almost as bad as weeds. I refer to the wearisome controversy as to whether it is not desirable to allow grass to grow or to cultivate some cover plant which will extinguish the weeds. There are one or two cover plants which do not cause any permanent damage and have even proved beneficial on some plantations, when they have lacked sufficient cash to maintain a proper upkeep and when the only alternative was abandonment. I have experimented with small areas under grass, but the results have not shaken my belief in clean weeding, to be followed by digging or ploughing whenever there is a sufficiency of funds and labour. With a sufficient supply of these sinews of war, the planter can hold his own and after three or four years, aided by the shade then afforded by his trees, he becomes master of the situation.

THE HARVEST.

The longed-for harvest then occupies his attention; and now-a-days his thoughts turn, naturally enough, to the curing factory. When I started tapping, the word factory had not been invented, or, at any rate, used in this connection. I began by settling the latex in my washing basin, rolling the rubber with a beer bottle (an empty one) and drying it on the veranda. Then acting under strong domestic pressure, I moved the scene of operations to the stables, and carried it on there until there was no room for the horse. Next I built a little shed and bought a hand mangle. The next move was to the factory of to-day.

COST OF PRODUCTION.

You will, I think, be interested to hear something about the cost of production. We planters are frequently twitted about our old promises of cheap production and these are compared with actual costs, which in some cases exceed 60 cents (U. S. A. currency) a pound. The twitting, curiously enough, was most severe when rubber was worth from two to three dollars, at which time we had to pay an ad valorem export duty and charges, based on these extremely high prices.

(To be continued.)